



JOURNEY TO THE EAST
PART 1 OF 4

#13

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SONIC UNIVERSE™



DIRECT EDITION

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Tracy
Yardley!
Hunzeker

Welcome to the planet Mobius—a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Sonic's city has been conquered by the Iron Dominion. Now he must travel to the mysterious Dragon Kingdom to weaken his enemies from abroad!

Journey to the East

STORMTOP VILLAGE--
DRAGON KINGDOM

YOU GUYS
REALLY KNOW HOW
TO MAKE A TOURIST
FEEL WELCOME!

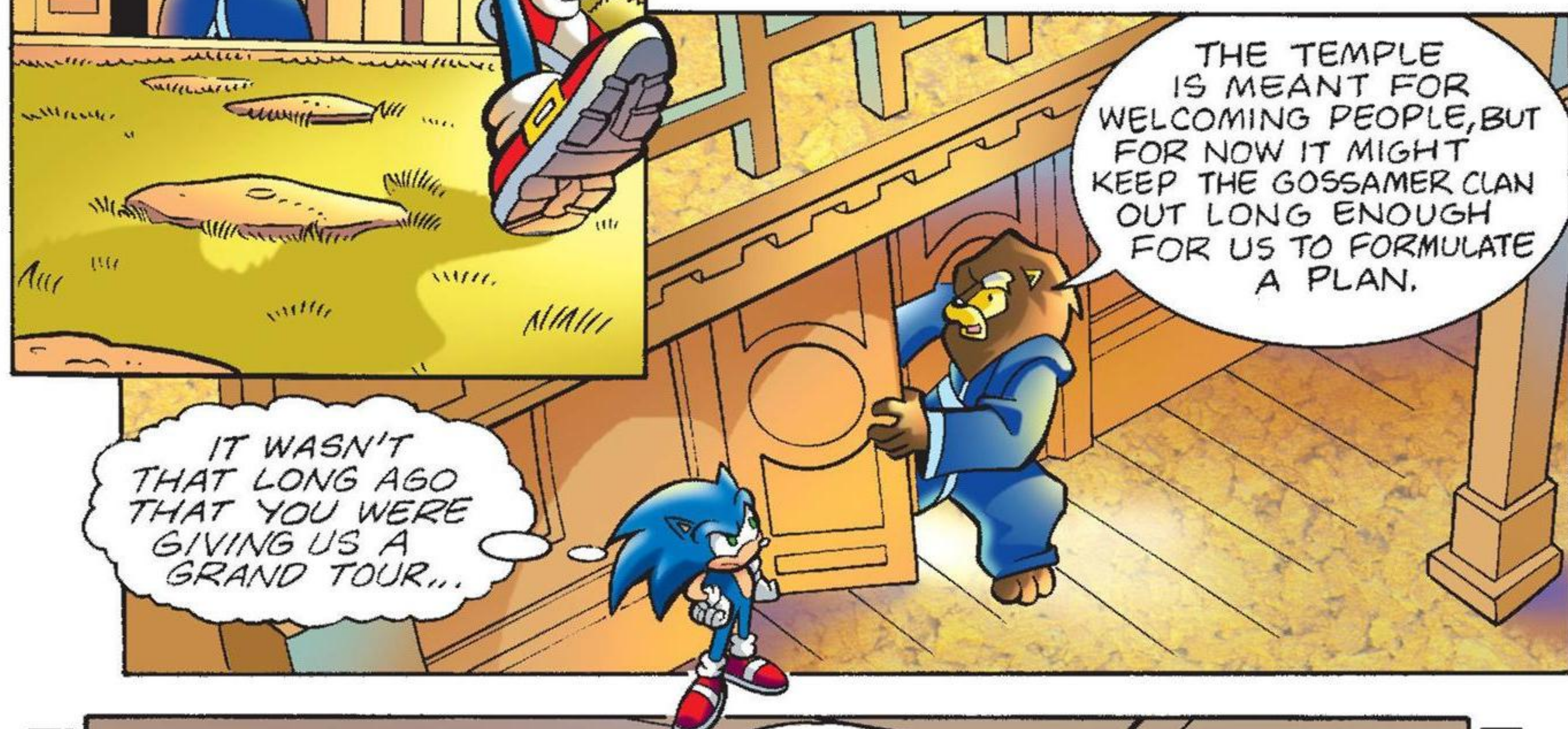
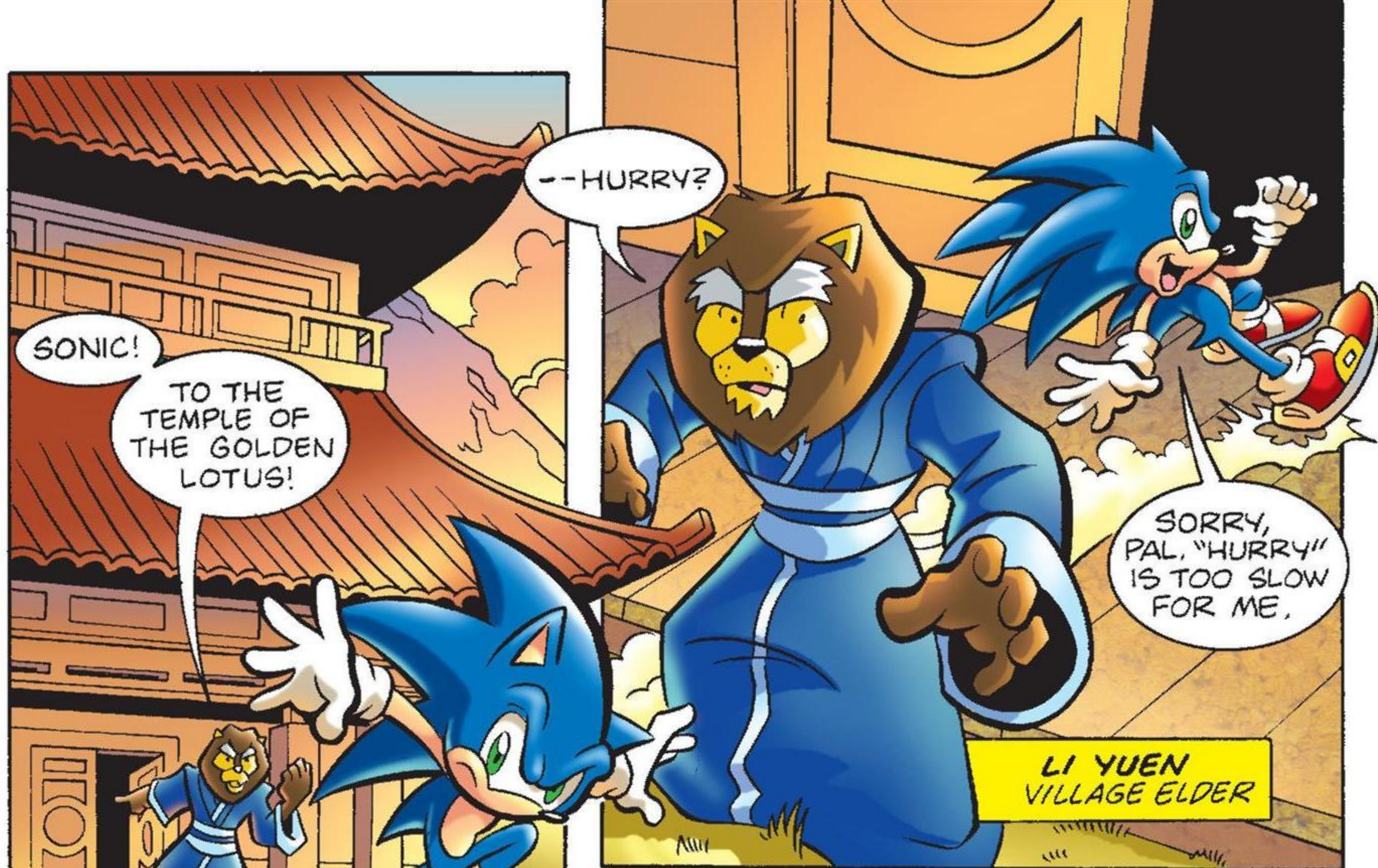
SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG
HERO OF
MOBIUS

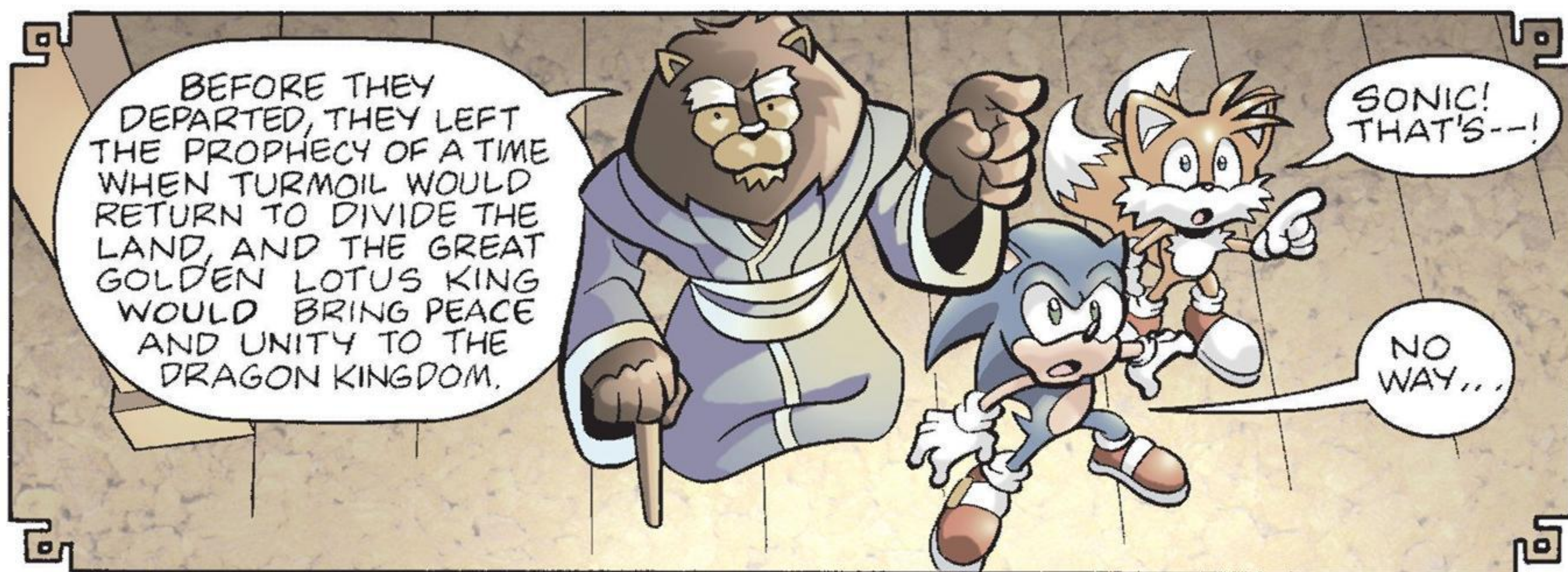
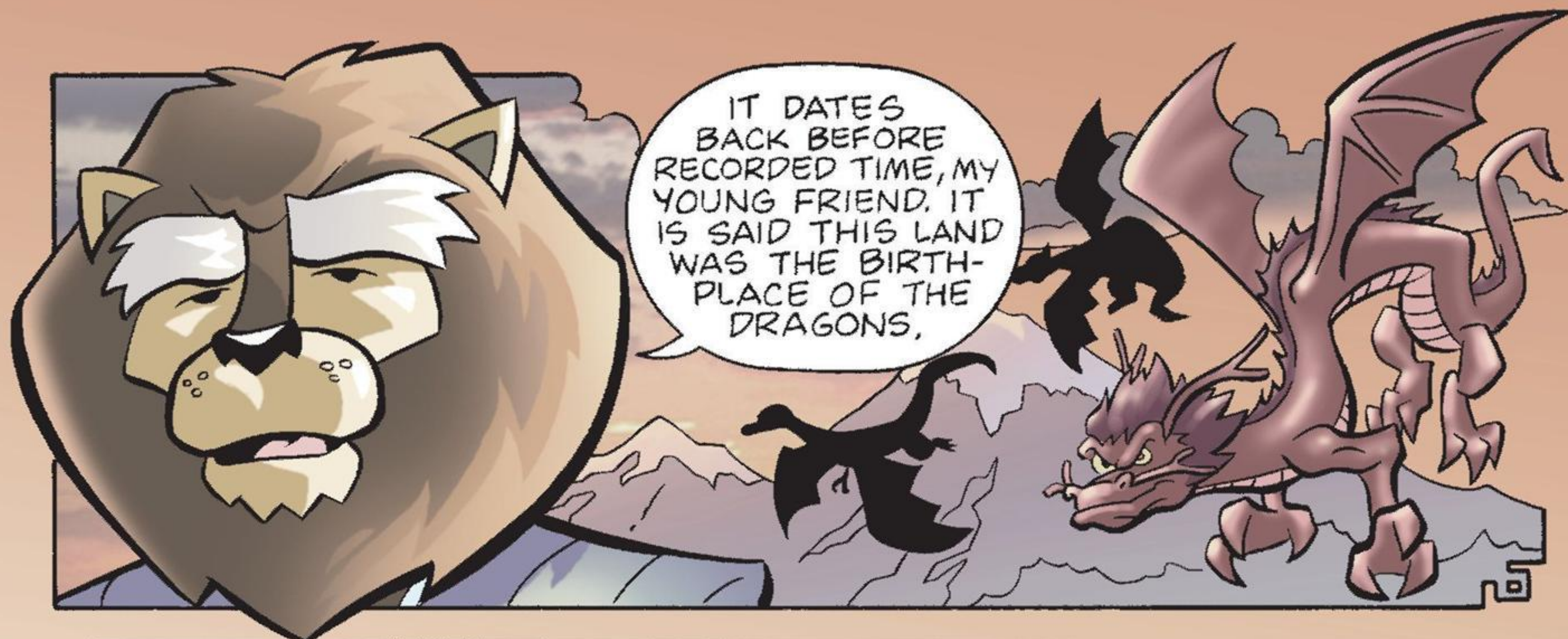
SPIDER NINJA
OF THE
GOSSAMER CLAN

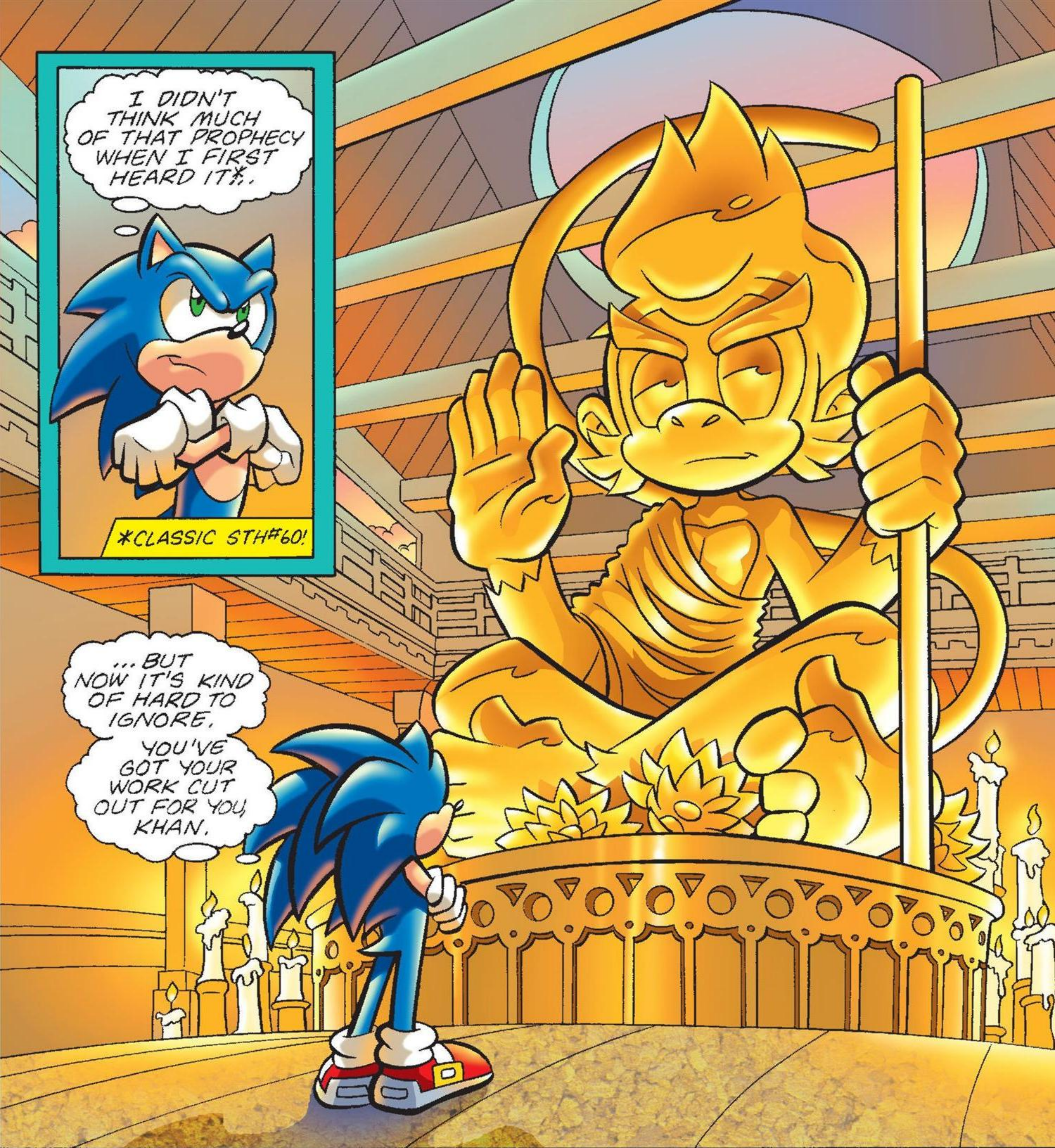
Part One:

Endless Reach of FATE

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A close-up panel showing Sonic on the left and Knuckles on the right. Sonic is looking at Knuckles with a slight smirk, while Knuckles has a serious, intense expression.

I'VE TANGLED
WITH SOME OF
YOU GUYS IN THE
PAST, AND I'M
NOTING A SERIOUS
LACK OF WEAPONRY.
OR WEBBING.

YOU'RE
PULLING YOUR
PUNCHES.
WHY?

A close-up panel of Knuckles' face, looking down with a somber and thoughtful expression.

THE MASTER
LEARNED OF YOUR
ARRIVAL AND DECREED
YOU WOULD MEET
HER.

THERE WAS
NO GUARANTEE
YOU WOULD COME
WILLINGLY OR
PEACEFULLY.

WE WERE
SENT TO MAKE
ASSURANCES.

A panel showing Sonic and Knuckles standing on a stone floor. Sonic is on the left, looking at Knuckles, who is on the right, gesturing with his hands as he speaks.

SO ATTACKING
AND KIDNAPPING
MY FRIENDS WAS THE
BEST YOU COULD COME
UP WITH TO GET MY
COOPERATION? YOU
COULDN'T JUST IMPORT
A CHILI DOG
RECIPE?

IT IS NOT
OUR PLACE TO
QUESTION THE
MASTER.

A panel showing Sonic and Knuckles in a room with stone pillars. Sonic is on the left, gesturing with his hands, while Knuckles is on the right, looking at him.

OH,
WELL.

I'LL
SEE YOU
LATER, OLD
MAN!

YOU'RE
SIMPLY GOING
WITH THEM?
JUST LIKE
THAT?

SURE!

A wide panel showing Sonic running through a dark, shadowy forest at night. The scene is filled with the silhouettes of trees and foliage.

"AT THIS RATE,
WHAT'S THE
WORST THAT
CAN HAPPEN?"

LATER...

WOW!
NICE PLACE
YOU'VE GOT
HERE.

PRINCESS
SALLY
ACORN
TOMBOY
PRINCESS

MILES
"TAILS"
PROWER
SONIC'S
BEST
FRIEND

MONKEY
KHAN
DRAGON
KINGDOM
NATIVE

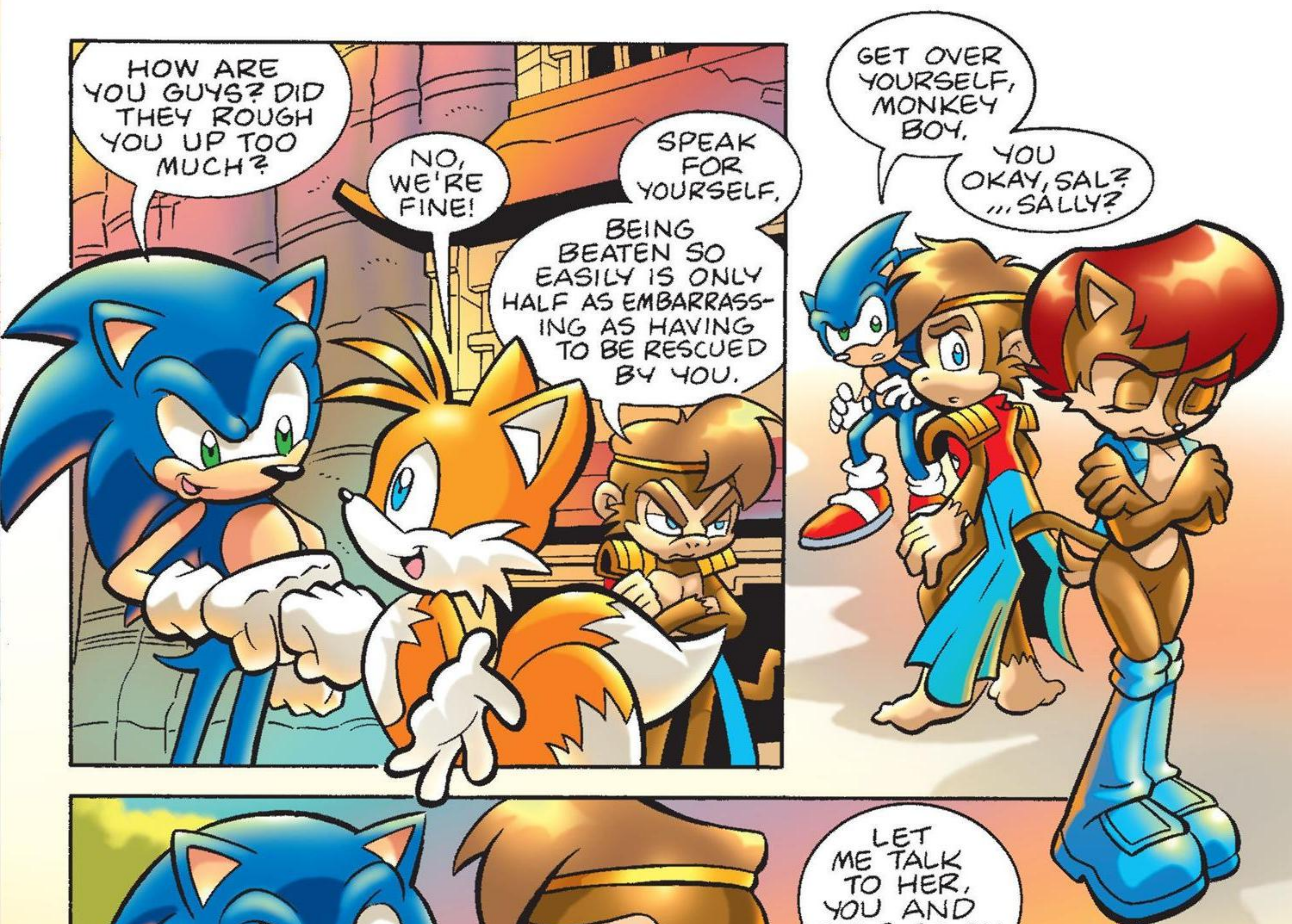
HEY GUYS!
SORRY IT TOOK
SO LONG TO GET
BACK TO YOU.

SONIC!

YOU HAVE
AGREED TO
MEET THE MASTER
WITH OBEDIENCE
AND HUMILITY?

YEAH, BECAUSE
THOSE ARE TOTALLY
MY KEY TRAITS. LET
MY FRIENDS GO AND
WE'LL HEAR WHAT SHE
HAS TO SAY WITH-
OUT A FUSS.

VERY
WELL.





SALLY,
TALK TO
ME.

WE NEED
YOU AT THE
TOP OF YOUR
GAME RIGHT
NOW.

I DON'T
THINK I'VE
BEEN AT
THE "TOP OF
MY GAME"
FOR MONTHS,
KEN.



I DIDN'T
ARREST ROBOTNIK
WHEN I HAD THE
CHANCE,* IT DIDN'T
EVEN OCCUR TO ME,
AND I RATIONALIZED
IT FOR MYSELF LATER
AS SHOWING MERCY.
I'VE LOST NEW
MOBOTROPOLIS TO
THE IRON DOMINION**,
AND NOW I'VE
SPENT MY FIRST
FEW HOURS OF
THIS MISSION AS
A STUPID
HOSTAGE!

*STH#200
**STH#208-209



SALLY...

NO!

I USED
TO HANDLE
SWATBOTS, KEN!
SWATBOTS!
I STAGED A
WINNING CAMPAIGN
AGAINST ROBOTNIK'S
EMPIRE BEFORE
I EVEN CAME
OF AGE!

AND NOW
LOOK AT THIS
MESS WE'RE IN.
I'M ONLY FREE
BECAUSE I RAN
AWAY FROM THE
FIGHT! I FEEL
LIKE I'M AT
THE END OF
MY ROPE
HERE!





YOU LISTEN TO ME,

YOU ARE BETTER THAN THIS,

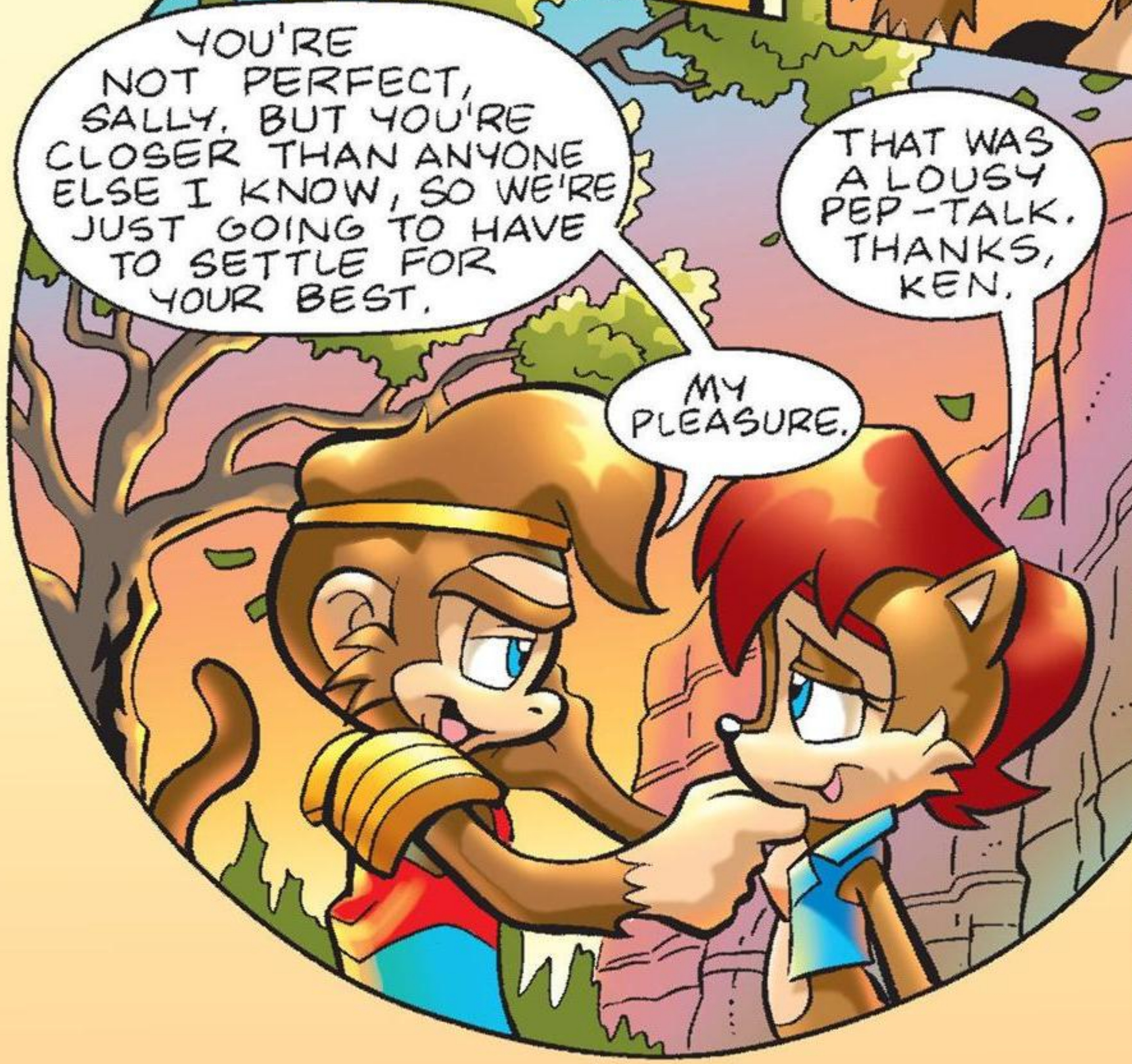


YOU CAME UP WITH THE PLAN TO WEAKEN THE IRON DOMINION FROM WITHIN THEIR HOMELAND, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO RESCUED NICOLE. THE ONLY REASON WE HAVE HOPE RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE OF YOU.



YOU GOT CAUGHT BY THE GOSSAMER CLAN, BUT SO DID I AND I'M FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN YOU, WITH LIGHTNING POWERS!

YOU MADE A TACTICAL ERROR WITH ROBOTNIK, BUT DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GIVE UP ON THE REST OF THE FIGHT?



YOU'RE NOT PERFECT, SALLY, BUT YOU'RE CLOSER THAN ANYONE ELSE I KNOW, SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SETTLE FOR YOUR BEST.

THAT WAS A LOUSY PEP-TALK. THANKS, KEN.

MY PLEASURE.



ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.

"LET'S GO SEE
THE WOMAN
IN CHARGE."

I AM THE
BRIDE OF THE
ENDLESS REACH.
BRIDE TO THE HOUSE
OF THE GOSSAMER CLAN,
SHE WHO KNOWS THE
COURSE OF FATE,
SHE WHO CAN OBTAIN
ALL THINGS.

I AM
PRINCESS SALLY
ALICIA ACORN,
DAUGHTER OF
KING MAXIMILLIAN
AND LEADER OF
THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS.

I AM
MONKEY
KHAN.

OH NO,
YOU DON'T.
WE NEED YOU
AT THE TOP
OF YOUR GAME,
TOO.

...THE KING
OF THE FREE
PEOPLE, APPOINTED
DEFENDER OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE
DRAGON KINGDOM
WITHOUT A CLAN
TO CALL THEIR
OWN.

YO, I'M
SONIC.

MY NAME
IS TAILS.
I'M WITH
HIM.



GUYS!
WOULD YOU
PLEASE--!

AH, THE
ACORN PRINCESS.
WE WOULD VERY
MUCH LIKE TO
HEAR YOUR
ACCOUNT OF
OUR DEAREST
DAUGHTER--



--UMA
ARACHNIS.

SHE WAS
ONE OF
YOURS?

WAIT,
I THOUGHT
YOU'D NEVER
BEEN TO
THE DRAGON
KINGDOM?



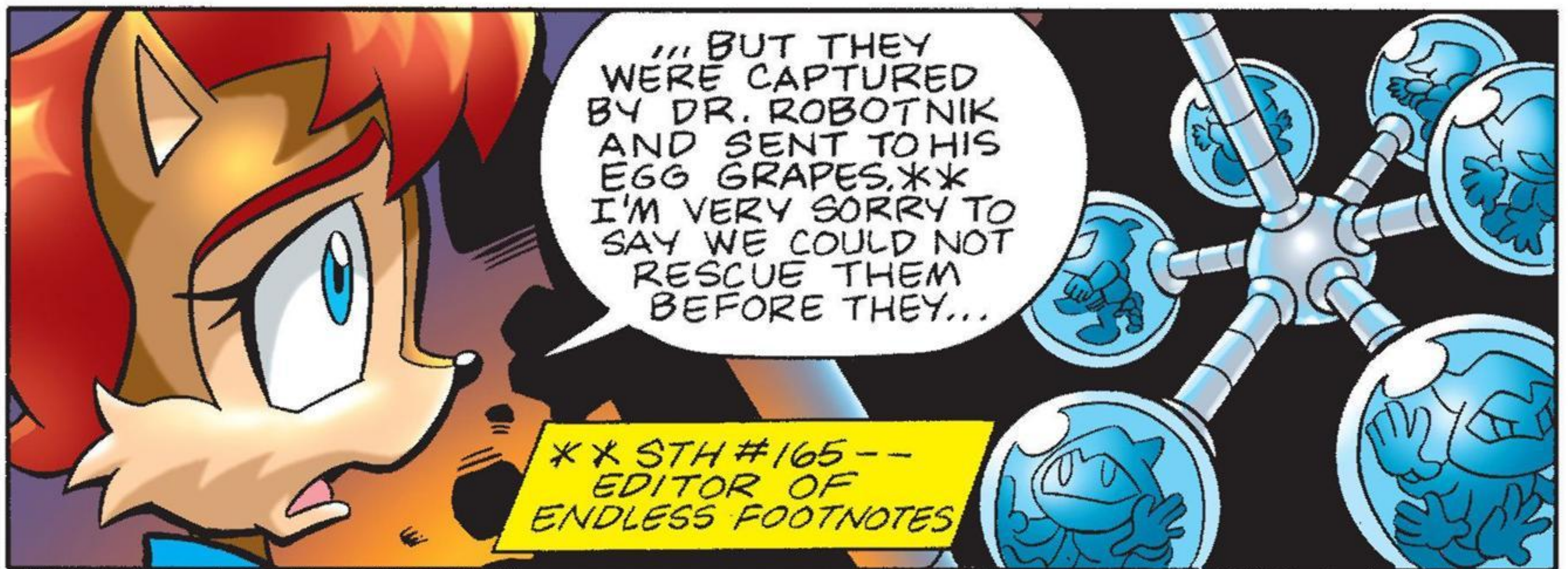
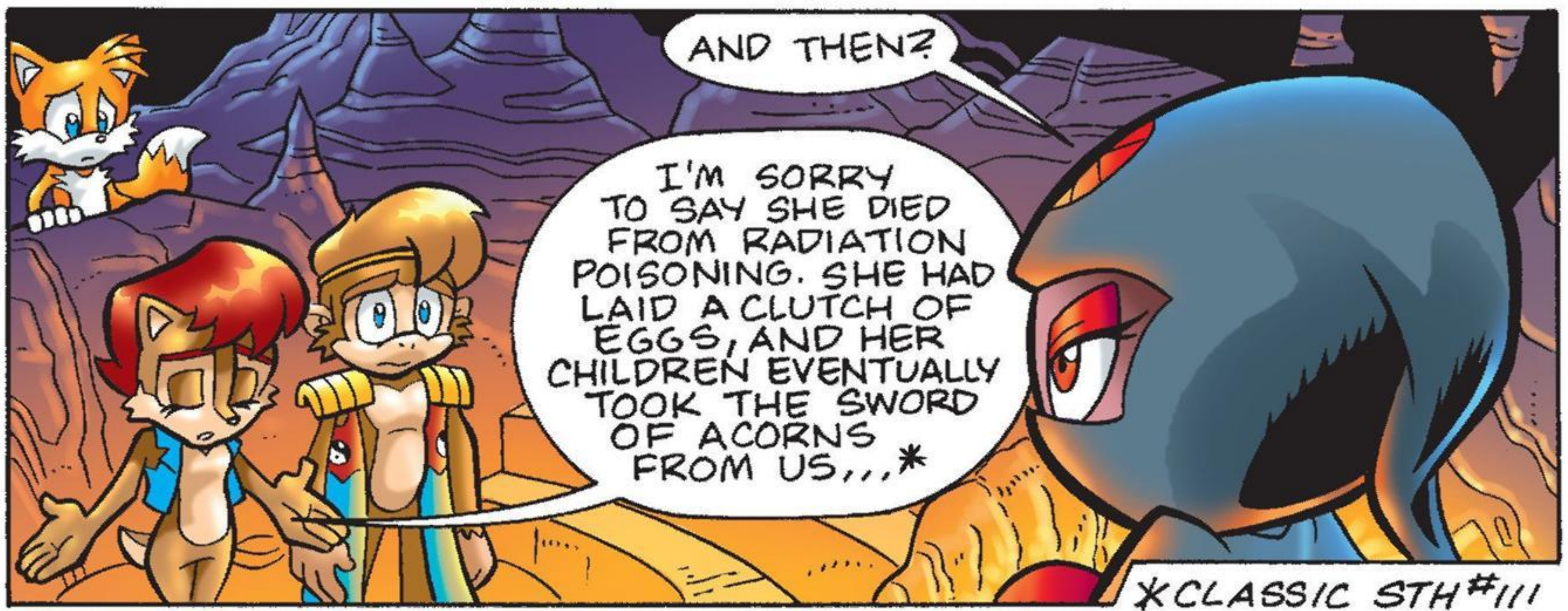
SHE WAS
A MINION OF THE
EVIL WIZARD IXIS
NAUGUS AND ESCAPED
FROM THE ZONE OF
SILENCE WITH HIM ALONG
WHILE AGO.*

*CLASSIC
STH#53



"SHE LATER WORKED
WITH THE FORMER
WARLORD KODOS
TO STEAL THE
SWORD OF ACORNS.
BUT SHE ENDED UP
TURNING ON HIM
AND HELPED ME
RETRIEVE IT**,"

**CLASSIC
STH#100!





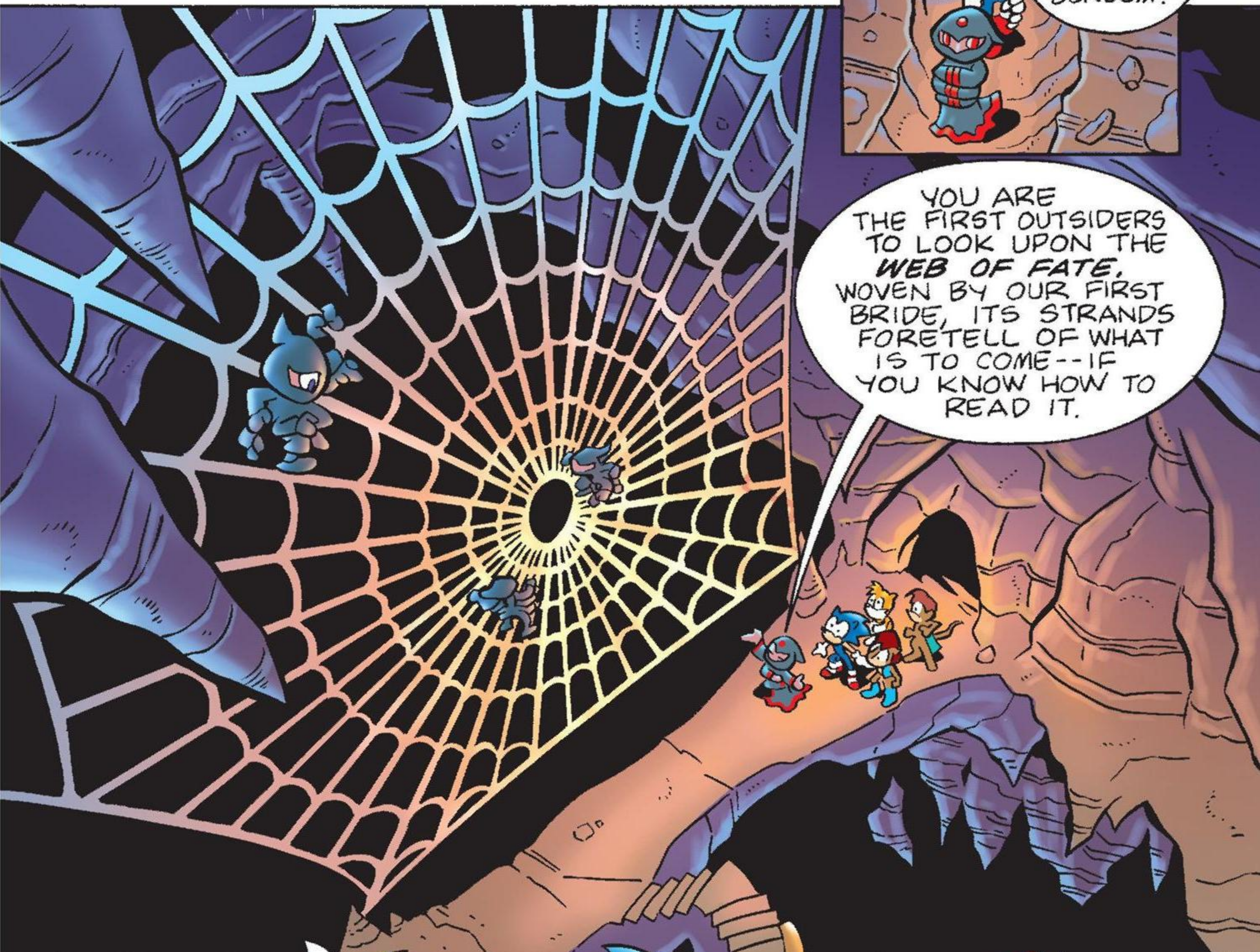
THIS IS ALL **VERY** FASCINATING, REALLY, BUT COULD YOU MAYBE HAVE IT MAKE SOME SENSE TO THE UNINITIATED?

UMA, AND INDEED, ALL OF THE ARACHNE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR MOST GIFTED READERS.

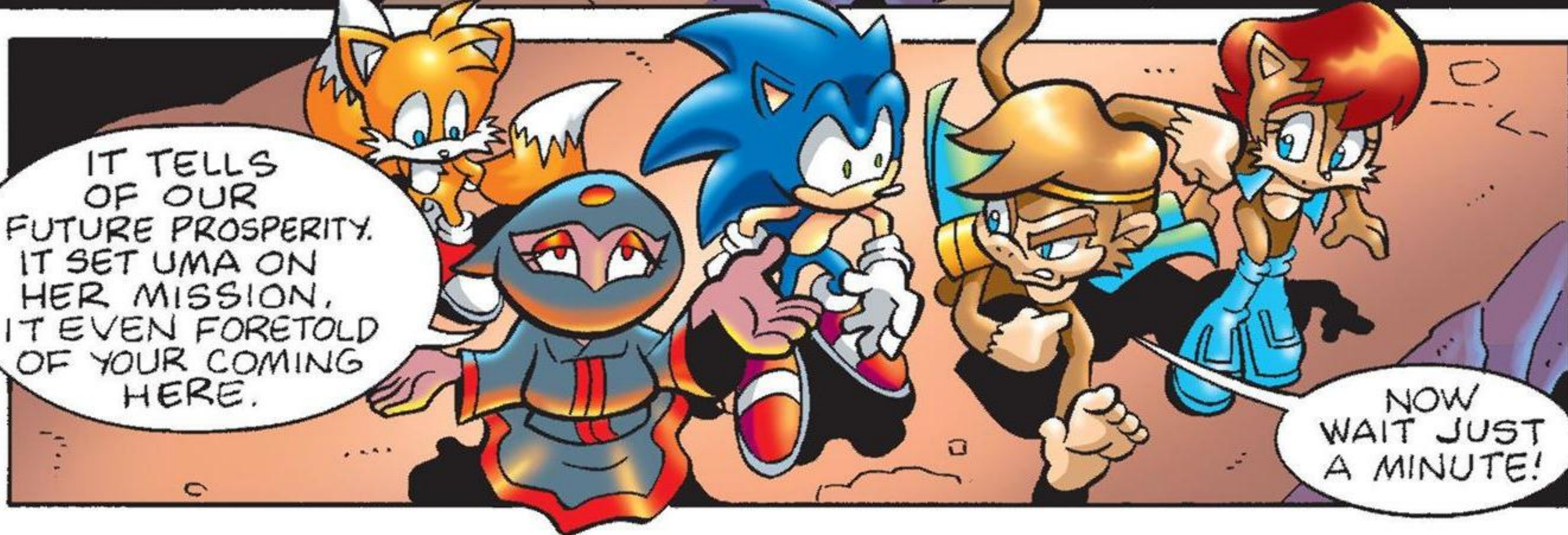


SHE SAW THAT THE LAST RELICS OF THE SOURCE OF ALL WOULD FALL INTO THE HANDS OF EVIL AND ENSURED THEY WERE DESTROYED, EVEN AFTER HER OWN DEATH.

Yuh-huh. ABOUT MAKING THIS ALL MAKE SENSE...?



YOU ARE THE FIRST OUTSIDERS TO LOOK UPON THE **WEB OF FATE**, WOVEN BY OUR FIRST BRIDE, ITS STRANDS FORETELL OF WHAT IS TO COME--IF YOU KNOW HOW TO READ IT.



IT TELLS OF OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY. IT SET UMA ON HER MISSION, IT EVEN FORETOLD OF YOUR COMING HERE.

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!



IF YOU CAN FORESEE ALL THIS, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING?! WHY HAVE MY PEOPLE BEEN MADE TO SUFFER IF YOU'RE ALREADY SO WELL INFORMED?! WHY AREN'T YOU SHARING YOUR **WISDOM** WITH THE REST OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM?!

Er... KHAN? MAYBE NOW ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO...



IT IS **OUR** WEB, WOVEN BY **OUR** BRIDE AND READ BY **OUR** CHOSEN. IT IS NOT SOMETHING FOR THE REST OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM.



THE WEB OF FATE TELLS OF THE KEY MOMENTS TO COME, BUT NOT THE ROAD TO TAKE. WE CANNOT USE IT FOR SOMETHING SO BASE AS DAY-TO-DAY TACTICS.



FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THIS "KING," BORN IN ANOTHER LAND, POWERED BY ROBOTNIK'S GIFTS, AND GIVEN TITLE ONLY BY CLANLESS PEOPLES IS FORGETTING HE IS TALKING TO THE GOSSAMER CLAN'S **BRIDE!**

IF YOU THINK THAT I'M JUST GOING TO--!

≡ AHEM ≡

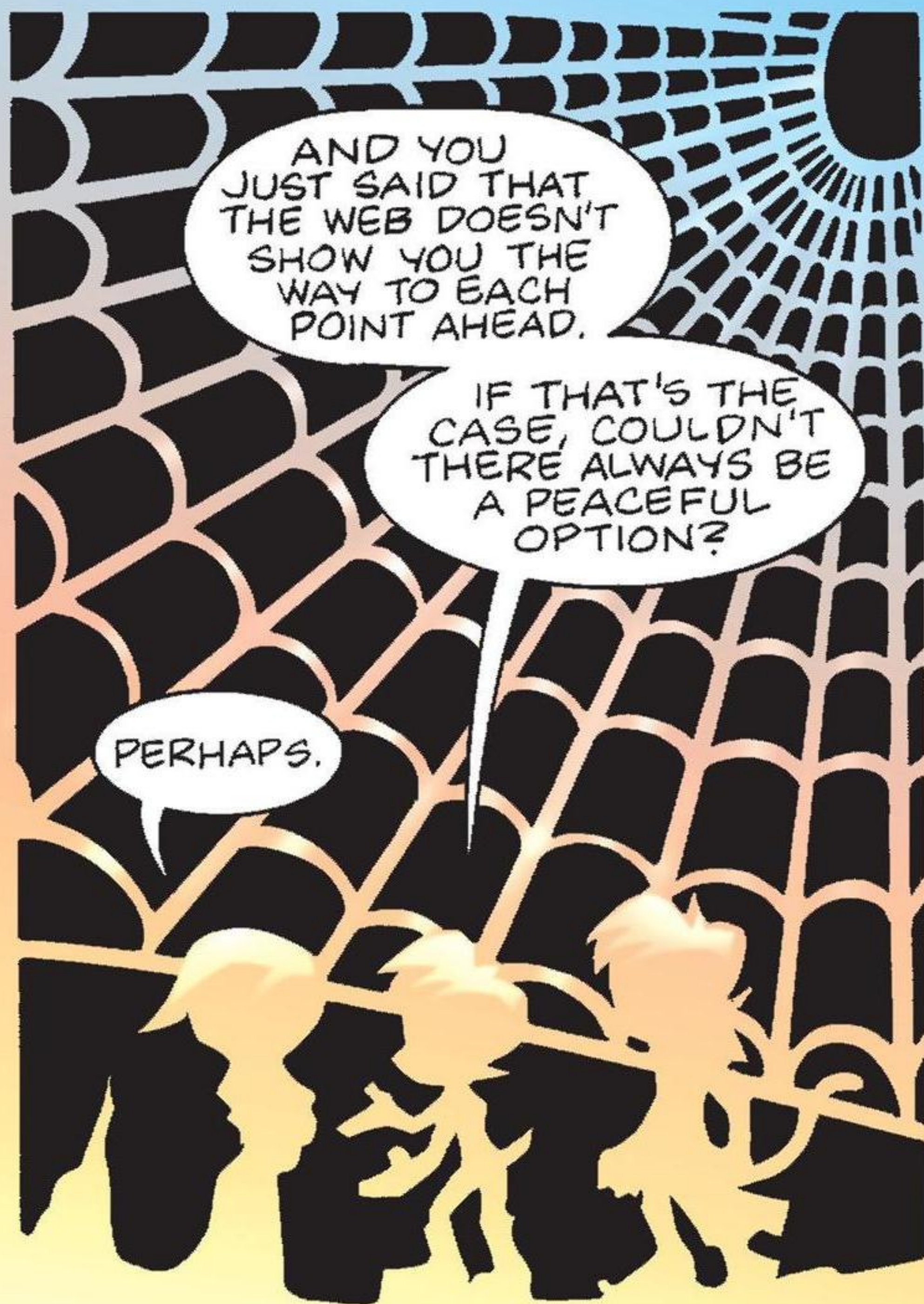


IF I MAY...?



THE DRAGON KINGDOM IS A MASSIVE LAND. THE UNORGANIZED "FREE PEOPLE" CAN LIVE ALONGSIDE THE OTHER CLANS COMFORTABLY, RIGHT?

OF COURSE, ALL THEY WANT IS TO LIVE IN PEACE.



AND YOU JUST SAID THAT THE WEB DOESN'T SHOW YOU THE WAY TO EACH POINT AHEAD.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, COULDN'T THERE ALWAYS BE A PEACEFUL OPTION?

PERHAPS.



WOULDN'T IT BE WORTH THE EFFORT, EVEN IF IT ISN'T THE FASTEST ROUTE? YOUR CLAN HAS ALREADY LOST UMA AND SIX YOUNG MEMBERS WHO NEVER GOT TO SEE THEIR HOMELAND.

THAT... THAT IS VERY TRUE...

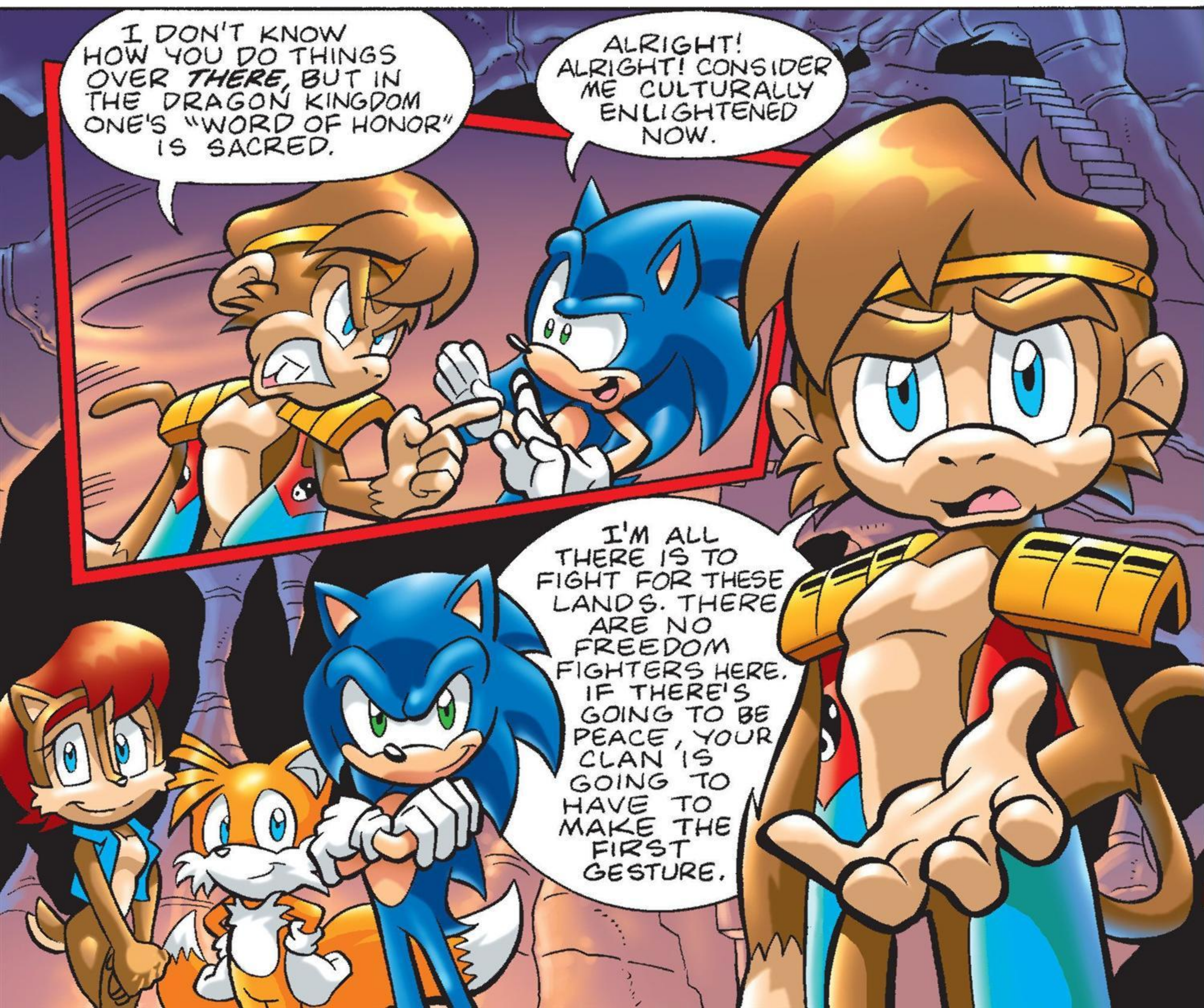


BUT WOULD THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE GOSSAMER CLAN AND ITS LAND? OR WOULD WE BE OPENING OURSELVES UP TO A NEW "KING OF THE FOUR HOUSES"?



THE PEOPLE ONLY WANT PEACE, AS... AS KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE, I WOULD BE SURE TO HONOR YOUR CLAN AND ITS CLAIMS. YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR.

YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO JUST BUY "YOUR WORD"?



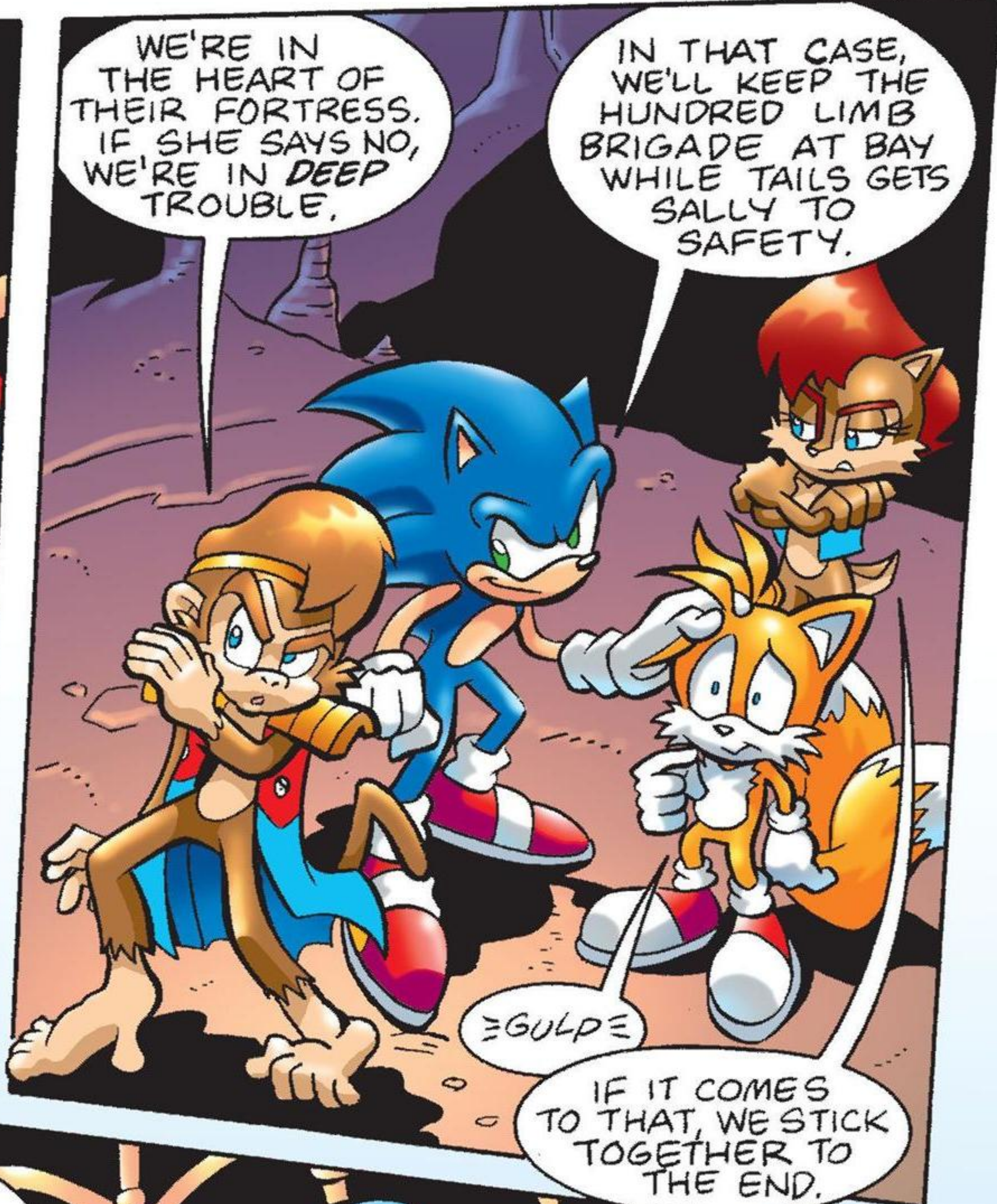
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THINGS OVER *THERE*, BUT IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM ONE'S "WORD OF HONOR" IS SACRED.

ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! CONSIDER ME CULTURALLY ENLIGHTENED NOW.

I'M ALL THERE IS TO FIGHT FOR THESE LANDS. THERE ARE NO FREEDOM FIGHTERS HERE. IF THERE'S GOING TO BE PEACE, YOUR CLAN IS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST GESTURE.



WE SHALL CONSULT THE WEB AND SEE WHAT IT DIRECTS.

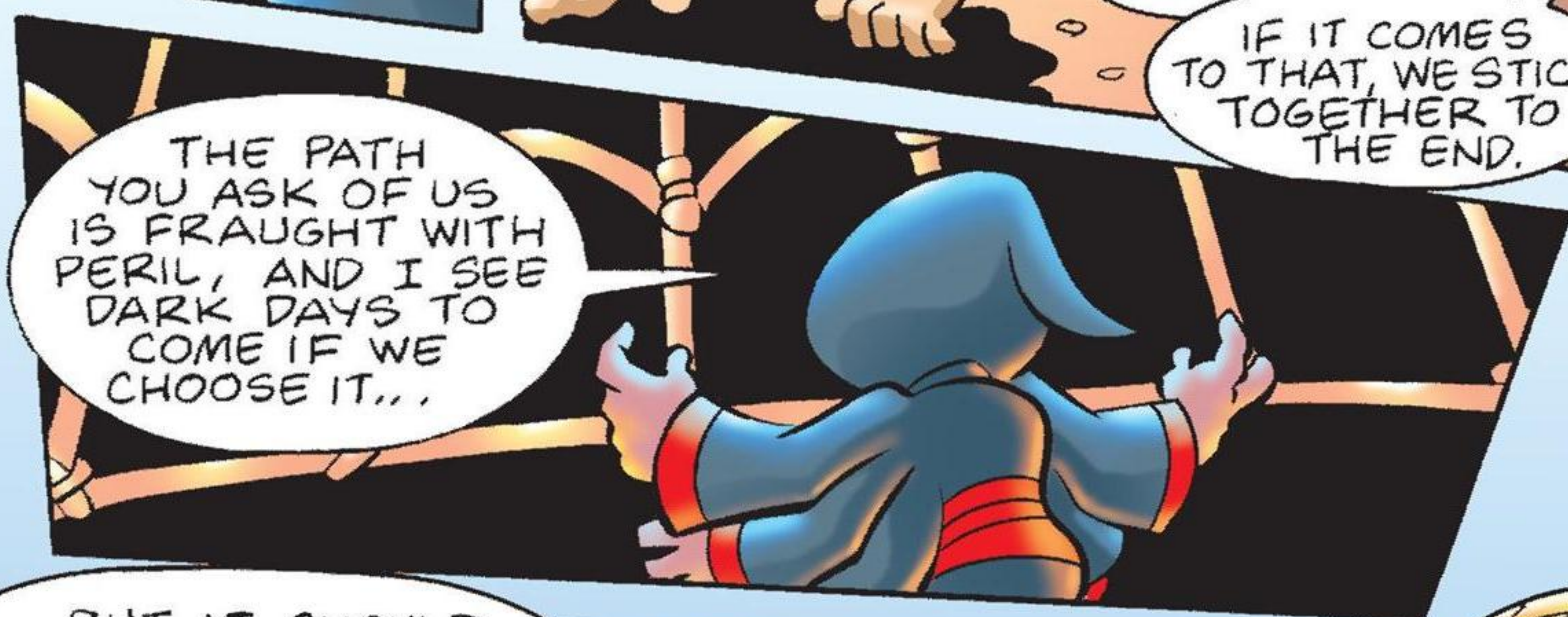


WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THEIR FORTRESS. IF SHE SAYS NO, WE'RE IN *DEEP* TROUBLE.

IN THAT CASE, WE'LL KEEP THE HUNDRED LIMB BRIGADE AT BAY WHILE TAILS GETS SALLY TO SAFETY.

≡GULP≡

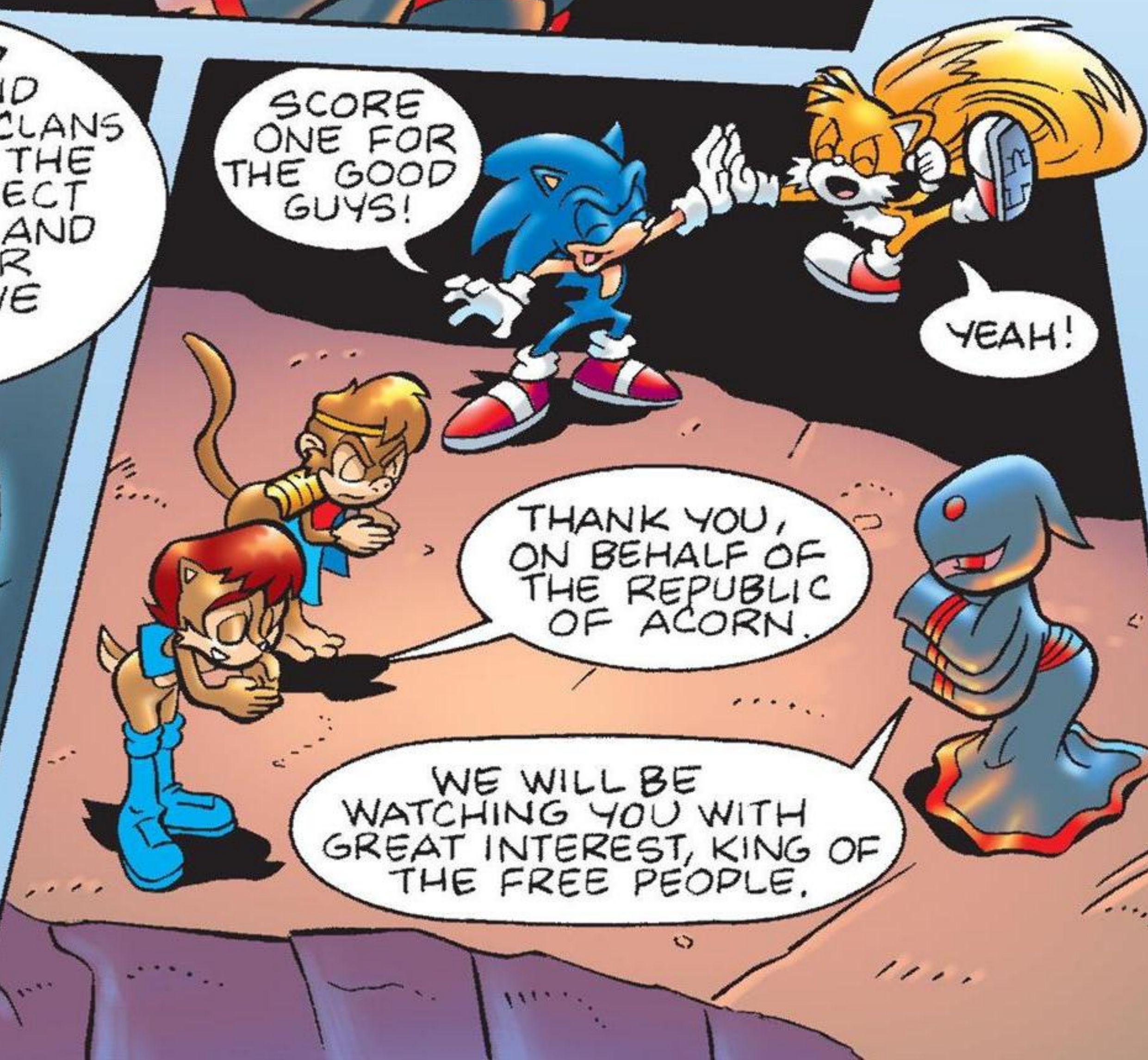
IF IT COMES TO THAT, WE STICK TOGETHER TO THE END.



THE PATH YOU ASK OF US IS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, AND I SEE DARK DAYS TO COME IF WE CHOOSE IT...



...BUT IT SHOULD ENSURE PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL CLANS AND ALL PEOPLE IN THE END. WE SHALL REJECT THE IRON DOMINION AND YOU WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT, YOU HAVE *MY* WORD OF HONOR.



SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS!

YEAH!

THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF ACORN.

WE WILL BE WATCHING YOU WITH GREAT INTEREST, KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.



"...AND THEN KHAN GETS ALL IN HER FACE, AND I'M THINKING -- 'GREAT, WAY TO GET US INTO ANOTHER BIG FIGHT, MONKEY BOY!'"



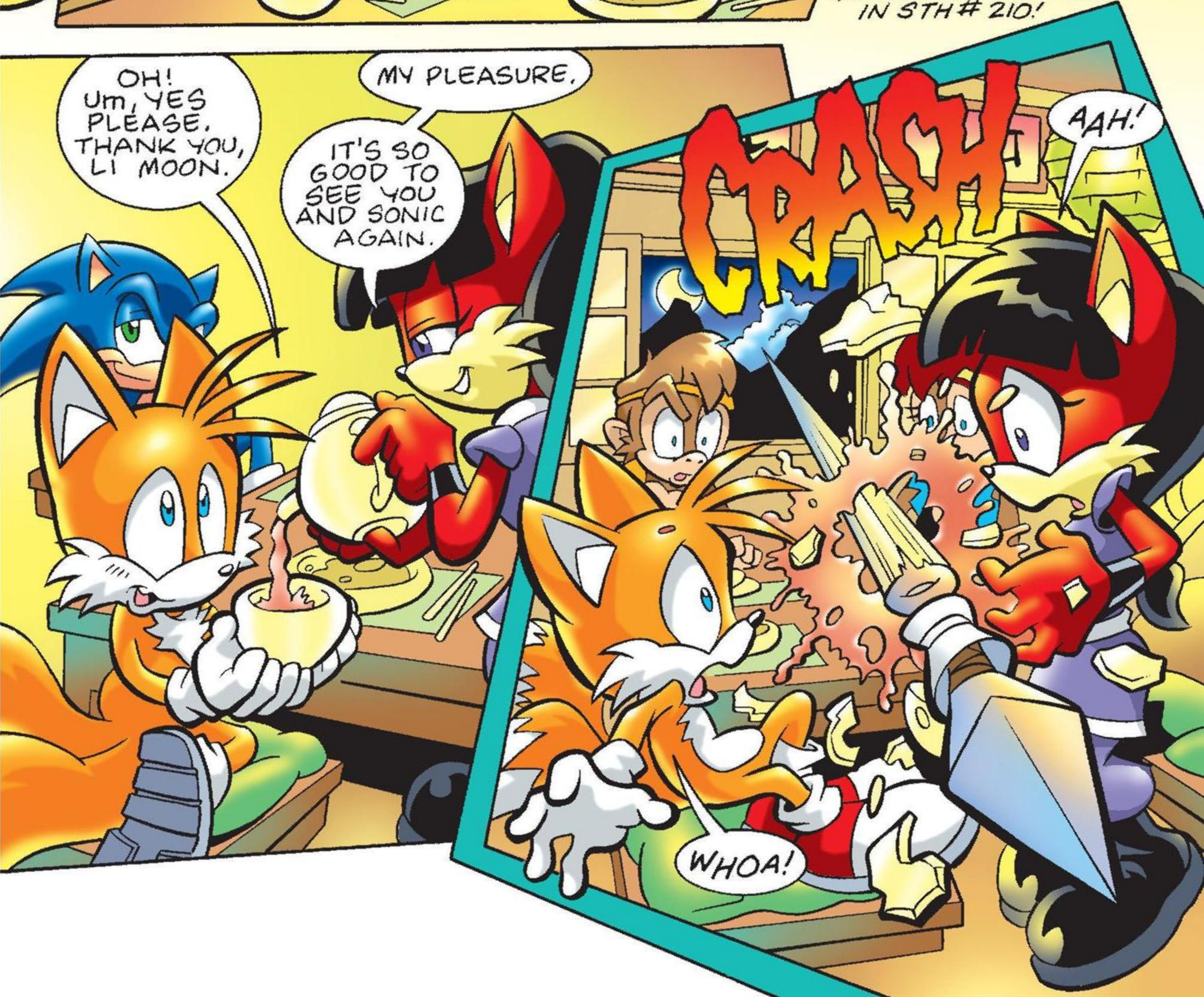
SO AFTER ALL THAT TALK ABOUT LOSING YOUR TOUCH, YOU JUST ENDED HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF HOSTILITY. FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF NOW?

I DID ALRIGHT, I SUPPOSE.



IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE JUST ABOUT ACCEPTED YOURSELF AS THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.

YEAH, YEAH... I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO.







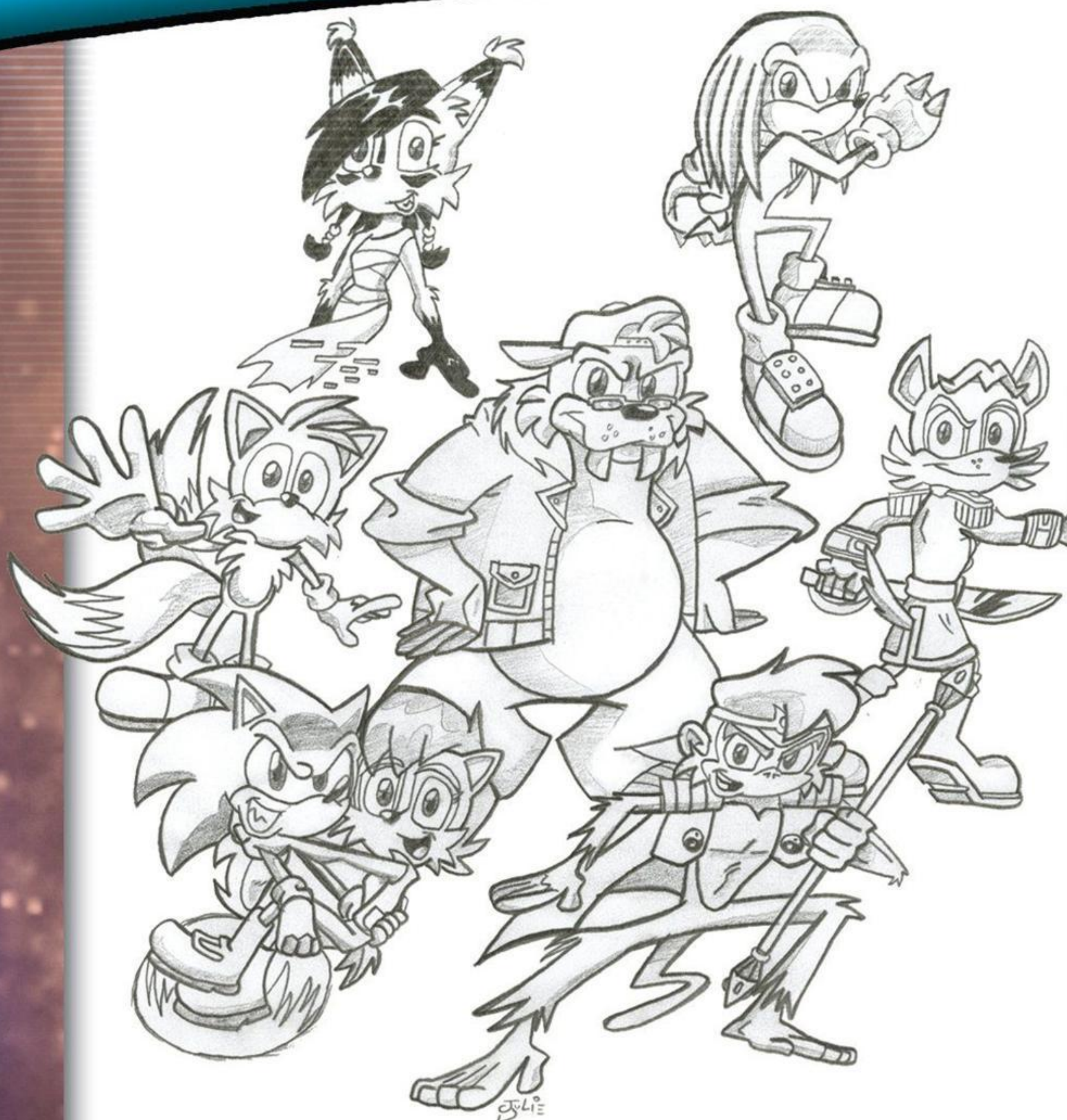
THAT SUITS
ME JUST
FINE!

WE'VE
ALREADY GOTTEN
ONE CLAN TO
BREAK AWAY.
TOMORROW,
WE'LL TAKE ON
THE YAGYU
CLAN!

So far so good, but how can you trust the nefarious Yagyu Clan of Bat Ninjas?

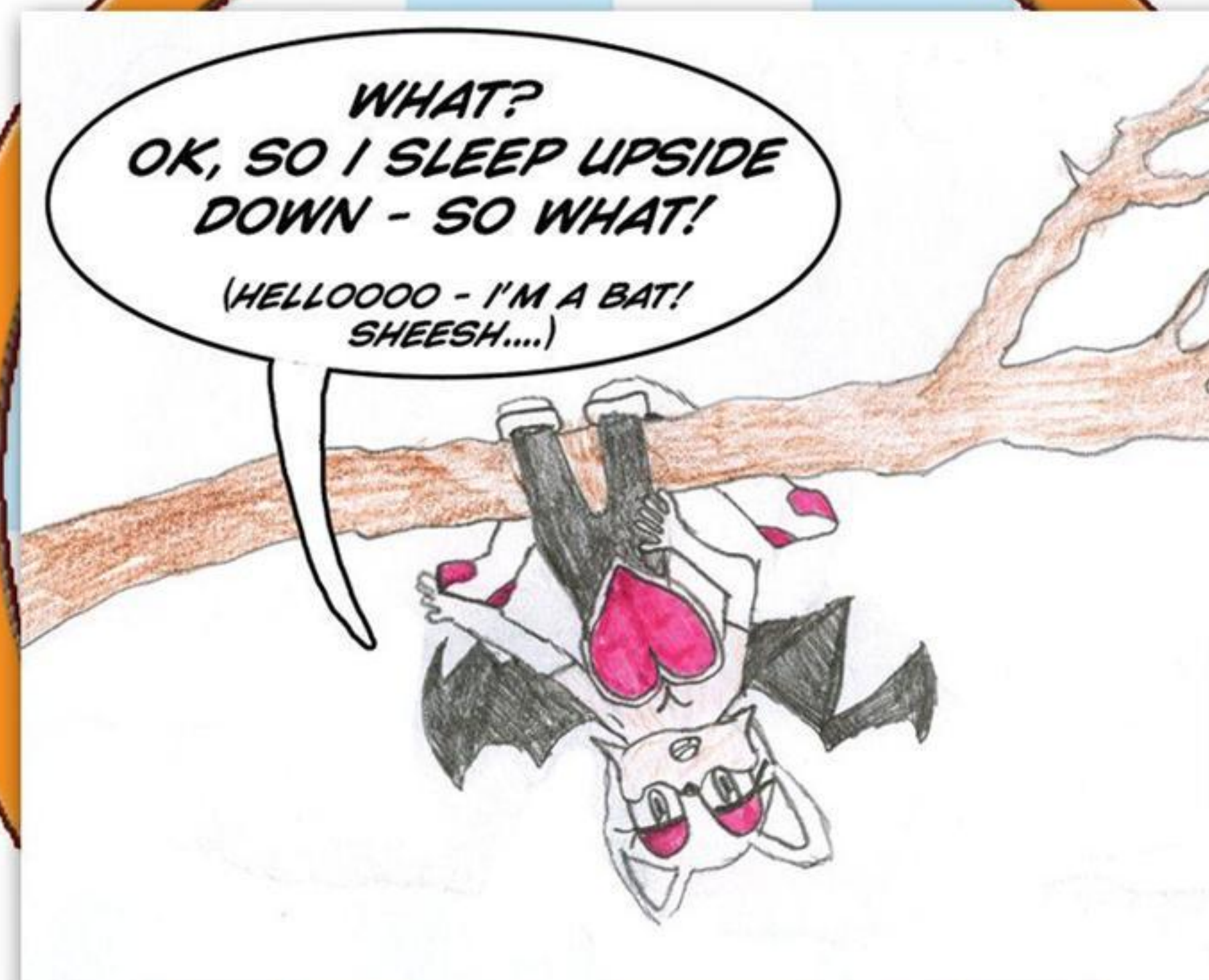
And you'll never guess who returns to darken Sonic and Tails' day!

It's threats old and new next time as Sonic's "Journey to the East" continues!



**Julie D.
Colorado**

FAN FUNNIES!



by Levi C. from Illinois

HEY, KIDS!

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OFF PANEL

Journey to the East



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